REMARKS

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The drawings are objected to because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description, particularly Figs. 7 and 8. Similarly, the disclosure is objected to in that Figs. 7 and 8 are not described. By this amendment, the specification has been amended to add the description of Figs. 7 and 8 that was inadvertently omitted from the original application. It is respectfully submitted that this description does not add new matter in that the figures fully disclose the subject matter described.

The examiner requested verification "that the housing and header have a cylindrical cross-section rather than a rectangular cross-section along a line taken perpendicular to the straight edge of the housing." The specification has been amended to be consistent with the figures wherein a rectangular cross-section is shown.

Claim 12 was objected to based on apparent omission of the word "header" in line 3. The claim has been amended to obviate this objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 4-7 standing rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) as being anticipated by Sanchez-Zambrano (Pat. No. 5,895,414). Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Ruben et al. (Pub. No. 2003/0144707). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruben et al. (Pub. No. 2003/0144707) in view of Westlund (Pat. No. 5,749,911). Claim 9 is objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim but is indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without addressing the merits of the rejection of claims 1 2, 3, 4-8 and 10-22 with respect to U.S. Publication Number 2003/0144707 (Ruben et al.), Applicant submits herewith a Declaration of Casey O'Hara under 37 CFR 1.131 declaring that the

conception of the present invention was completed in the United States prior to January 31, 2002, the priority filing date of the Ruben et al. patent application.

Accordingly, this reference no longer qualifies as prior art under 35 USC 102(e) or 35 USC 103(a), and therefore, none of the claims rejected, based upon this reference, can be considered anticipated or obvious over such cited reference. Withdrawal of the claim rejections based on Ruben et al. is respectfully requested.

Thus, the only remaining rejections should be those of claims 1 and 4-7 as being as being anticipated by Sanchez-Zambrano. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 2 which has been canceled herein. Since claim 2 was allowable over the Sanchez-Zambrano reference, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Further, it is submitted that claims 3 and 10-13 which depend from amended claim 1 are also allowable. Rejected claims 4-7 have been canceled.

New claim 23 presents the subject matter of canceled claim 8 in independent form.

Claim 9 which was indicated as being allowable in the Office Action has been amended to independent form. Allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and the accompanying declaration, it is respectfully submitted that all of remaining claims 1, 3, and 9-23 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case with these remaining claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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